

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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R 072045Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3168

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3552

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USLO SACLANT

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5998

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/79

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING DECEMBER 7, 1973: AGENDA ITEM IV,
STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROGROUP

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

1. AT OUTSET OF PLANEARY SESSION OF DECEMBER 7 DPC MINISTERIAL
MEETING, EUROGROUP CHAIRMAN (TANASSI, ITALY) MADE A STATEMENT
ON RESULTSO OF EUROGROUP DECEMBER 6 MINISTERIAL MEETING.

2. SUBSTANCE OF TANASSI'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

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BEGIN TEXT:

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES - AND ACHIEVEMENTS - OF THE
EUROGROUP ARE WELL KNOWN TO MY COLLEAGUES. I SHALL NOT,

THEREFORE, DO MORE THAN RECALL THAT IT IS THE EUROGROUP'S MAIN AIM TO CO-ORDINATE DEFENCE EFFORTS OF MEMBER NATIONS MORE CLOSELY SO THAT WE CAN, BY USING OUR COMBINED RESOURCES MORE EFFECTIVELY AND ECONOMICALLY, INCREASE THE COLLECTIVE STRENGTH OF THE ALLIANCE.

ONE AREA WHICH OFFERS CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR GREATER CO-OPERATION IS ARMS PROCUREMENT. WE AGREED THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE EUROPEAN ARMS COLLABORATION IN THE EUROGROUP AND WE HAVE ASKED OUR ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS TO TAKE SPECIAL MEASURES TO BRING TO OUR PERSONAL ATTENTION - AT AN EARLY STAGE - THOSE PROJECTS WHICH OFFER THE BEST CHANCE OF SUCCESSFUL JOINT PROCUREMENT. ONE PROJECT TO WHICH WE HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION IS THE F104 REPLACEMENT SINCE NO LESS THAN FOUR EUROGROUP COUNTRIES WILL NEED SUCH AN AIRCRAFT.

I WOULD JUST MENTION ONE OTHER PROJECT - LANCE. THE CONTRACT FOR THE EUROGROUP REQUIREMENT FOR THIS US WEAPON SYSTEM WAS SIGNED IN JULY THIS YEAR AND PRODUCTION HAS BEGUN. MOREOVER, A NATO MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY AGENCY (NAMS) LOGISTIC SUPPORT ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN AGREED BY BELGIUM, GERMANY, ITALY AND THE UK WHICH WILL PROVIDE A CENTRALIZED SUPPORT BASE IN LUXEMBOURG.

YESTERDAY WE ALSO TOOK STOCK OF CURRENT EFFORTS BY EUROGROUP COUNTRIES COLLECTIVELY TO IMPROVE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE AND WE AGREED TO PUBLISH, AS AN ANNEX TO OUR COMMUNIQUE, A NEW EUROPACKAGE. WE REPORT, FOR THE THIRD YEAR RUNNING, A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE - THIS TIME \$2 BILLION - IN OUR TOTAL DEFENCE BUDGETS FOR THE COMING YEAR AND WE LIST SOME - AND I STRESS SOME - OF THE MANY NEW EQUIPMENTS WHICH WE PLAN TO BRING INTO SERVICE NEXT YEAR - NEARLY 500 MAIN BATTLE TANKS, OVER 1,000 OTHER ARMoured VEHICLES AND SO ON. I WILL NOT LIST THEM - YOU CAN READ THE PACKAGE YOURSELVES. IT IS MY BELIEF, THAT THESE IMPROVEMENTS ARE IMPRESSIVE AND THAT THEY WILL SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE THE JOINT EUROGROUP CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLIANCE.

WE ALSO COMPLETED OUR AD 70 NO COST/LOW COST EXERCISE AND WILL BE GIVING OUR REVISED REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP SHORTLY. I BELIEVE THAT THE RESULTS OF THIS EXERCISE WILL ALSO IMPROVE, INDEED HAVE ALREADY IMPROVED, OUR CONTRIBUTION TO NATO - PARTICULARLY IN THE SPHERES OF INCREASED READINESS AND AVAILABILITY OF FORCES. AGAIN I SHALL NOT LIST OUR ACHIEVEMENTS, BUT SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES WILL, I HOPE, REPORT THE CONTRIBUTIONS WHICH THEIR COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE.

PROGRESS WITH THE \$1 BILLION EUROPEAN DEFENCE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME WAS ALSO REVIEWED. ALL THE VARIOUS FORCE

IMPROVEMENTS HAVE EITHER BEEN COMPLETED OR ARE ON SCHEDULE AND THE AIRCRAFT SHELTER PROGRAMME IS GOING AHEAD WELL WITH SOME 1600 SHELTERS ALREADY PROGRAMMED.

FINALLY, WE HAD A VERY FRANK AND USEFUL DISCUSSION, IN RESTRICTED SESSION, ON SOME OF THE MAJOR ISSUES FACING THE ALLIANCE, PARTICULARLY THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS. THIS INCLUDED A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON BURDEN SHARING.

WE AGREED ON THE NEED TO HELP OUR UNITED STATES COLLEAGUE AND THE US ADMINISTRATION IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH WE ALSO AGREED THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING FOR THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE TO GRAPPLE WITH AND NOT SIMPLY FOR THE EUROGROUP. MOREOVER IT WAS CLEAR FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS THAT NO ONE COURSE OF ACTION WAS NECESSARILY THE RIGHT ONE FOR ALL COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW. SOME SHOULD BE LIKELY TO HELP IN ONE WAY, OTHERS IN OTHERS. THIS REFLECTS FACT THAT POSITIONS OF THE VARIOUS EUROGROUP COUNTRIES ARE VERY DIFFERENT - SOME HAVE LARGE FORCES STATIONED OUTSIDE THEIR TERRITORIES, SOME HAVE ALLIED FORCES ON THEIR TERRITORIES, SOME SPEND HIGH PERCENTAGES OF GNP ON DEFENCE, SOME SPEND LOWER PERCENTAGES, GERMANY IS ENGAGED IN SPECIAL OFFSET NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES, AND SO ON. THE ONE THING THAT WE ALL SHARE IS THE DIFFICULTY OF RESISTING INCREASING PRESSURE TO REDUCE OUR DEFENCE BUDGETS.

NONETHELESS, WE AGREED THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE APPROACHED IN A POSITIVE MANNER AS WORK ON THIS SUBJECT IN NATO AS A WHOLE CONTINUES; AND THAT EACH COUNTRY WOULD ENDEAVOUR TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTRIBUTE, AS APPROPRIATE, TO THE PACKAGE OF MEASURES WHICH NATO IS TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER. TO THIS END WE AGREED TO CONTINUE TO STUDY THE PRACTICALITIES IN THE LIGHT OF TODAY'S DISCUSSION END SUBSTANCE OF TANASSI'S STATEMENT. RUMSFELD

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